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At **Pets Furst Urgent Care** in Langhorne, a highly qualified team of veterinarians use skill and compassion to treat animal companions seven days a week. page 22

Pets Furst veterinarians
Dolores Costantino, DVM,
and Jonas J. Colmer, VMD

At Pets Furst Urgent Care in Langhorne, a highly qualified team of veterinarians use skill and compassion to treat animal companions seven days a week.

Any pet owner will attest that animal companions are part of the family. Therefore, they deserve the highest-quality care offered by the likes of Pets Furst Urgent Care in Bucks County. The compassionate team of clinicians and staff at Pets Furst Urgent Care can make all the difference in a pet's life, particularly in times of illness and emergency.

"We provide pets and their owners with a unique experience, where they feel like they are members of our own family," says Michael Rebbecchi, who co-owns the Langhorne-based practice with Lawrence A. Rebbecchi Jr., VMD, who also owns and operates Philadelphia Animal Hospital in Southwest Philadelphia. "We can quickly and effectively help sick and even healthy pets without sacrificing the quality of the medicine our highly qualified team of veterinarians practice."

This family-owned and operated veterinary facility handles a variety of issues, including common ailments such as allergies, limping, back pain, skin and ear infections, vomiting and diarrhea, weight loss, and urinary tract infections, as well as humane euthanasia. The facility is also equipped to perform X-rays, urinalysis, fecal sample analysis, and bloodwork. Open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week, Pets Furst Urgent Care does not require an appointment; patients are seen on a first-come, first-served basis.

"Convenience is the No. 1 priority at Pets Furst Urgent Care," Rebbecchi says. "Even if an owner is not sure if Pets Furst Urgent Care is where they need to be with their pet, our friendly staff can help guide them to a local referral emergency center for them to get the necessary emergency care and work up required to meet their needs."

Rebbecchi's colleague and fellow practitioner Jonas J. Colmer, VMD, feels fortunate to be able to provide owners in the area with a more convenient and affordable option for how their pets receive care for emergent needs.

The Furst Name in Veterinary Care

by
LEIGH STUART

photos by
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"If their primary veterinarian is unable to accommodate them or their pet, especially if their four-legged family member became suddenly sick with a non-life-threatening emergency, we are happy to provide them with a great alternative to going to an emergency room," Colmer says. "Our goal is to provide pets as well as their owners with a five-star experience. Our friendly staff offers a warm welcome into our open-concept veterinary practice. They should expect to be treated as members of our growing Pets Furst family."

Colmer has long had interest in alleviating pets' pain due to orthopedic or neurologic issues. He gets immense satisfaction out of helping an owner identify the source of a pet's injury and then creating short- and long-term treatment protocols to help the pet feel better as quickly as possible.

"To me, the most rewarding experiences have involved the successful treatments of the most common illnesses these dogs and cats usually present for," he adds. "Clients enjoy being educated on how such issues can be prevented in the future or what they can do for maintenance to help their four-legged family member before it gets to the point of bringing them to the vet."

The Spectrum of Care

Fellow veterinarian Dolores Costantino, DVM, praises the Pets Furst family for fostering an air of kindness throughout the practice. Specifically, she cites the practice's commitment to hiring a hardworking, dedicated, and compassionate staff.

"My co-workers rock!" she says. "We may not always get a lunch break or get out on time, but we know we make a difference in our community. We do not go on pause, because sick pets deserve to be seen. When I am at work, it is always about putting pets first ... and I get to do that with a team that feels the same."

Costantino has been practicing veterinary medicine for nearly 25 years. She enjoys guiding animals onto the path to wellness after sustaining lacerations, superficial



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wounds, or complicated ear infections, as well as more serious concerns.

"We treat others' pets the way we would treat our own," she adds. "Pets and their owners can expect caring and expert service and advice. I do not recommend anything for others that I would not do for my own pet. I also feel it is my duty to educate owners on signs of pain in their pets. [Animals] do not always express pain as we might, and we need to be able to recognize this in our pets. We have many options to help pets and relieve their pain or suffering."

Pets Furst offers the "spectrum of care," meaning it treats animals at all stages of life. Costantino, whose family includes four children, two dogs, and four cats, takes pride in the practice's ability to help families make difficult decisions pertaining to their pets.

"Often we are at a crossroads of what medical options we can offer, and what options a family is able to move forward with," she says. "It can be a question of what can be done, and what a family is able to do for the beloved pet. I feel I can guide them and advocate for the pet's quality of life along the way. Veterinary medicine is not 'one size fits all' but medical care and compassion can be. We help people help the pets they love."

From the moment a human and his or her animal companion enter the practice, Rebbecca says everyone is made to feel welcome.

"Typically, within a short amount of time [after arriving], owners and their pets are brought back into our open-concept veterinary practice, where they can see parts of our treatment room, pharmacy, and doctor workstations on their way to the examination room," he explains. "Upon meeting our doctors, diagnostic tests can be promptly started, if warranted, so our

doctors can go over results with clients within 20 to 30 minutes. Even if diagnostics are not necessary to perform at the time of their visit, owners' concerns are met with the utmost respect and attention and their pets leave, hoping to feel better shortly after their visit."

Going forward, Rebbecca is optimistic about the prospects of growing the practice and building on its presence in Langhorne and surrounding communities.

"Our goal is to continue to grow as a family-owned veterinary practice," he says. "We are in the process of expanding, which includes hiring more veterinarians and team members to accommodate the growing demand of our services in the Bucks County area. We will continue to see more patients every day without sacrificing the utmost attention and quality of care we provide to our patients." ■



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